**[PARCC-READINESS] Some questions and answers sent to NYSED**

Bob Spino from Erie 2 and I have sent in some questions to NYSED and received some responses. I'm posting all here since many of you may have the same questions.   
  
1. If a district has a combined JR/SR High school they would need to be looking at two largest cohorts - one for grades 6-8 and one for grades 9-12. Their concern is that they will not have enough technology if they are asked to test both groups during the same session. Would they be ok if they had enough computers for the larger of those 2 cohorts provided that they could test one cohort during the morning session and the other cohort during the afternoon session?

**ANSWER:** We do not have enough information at this time about the final arrangement of testing windows and scheduling. Given you are describing two tested grade bands in one building, it may be best to plan for the largest cohort in 6-8 and in 9-12 simultaneously, per the memo guidance NYSED released last month.  
  
I sent the following knowing that many of them could not be answered but I wanted them to know the concerns of the field: (the overall answer is at the end)  **Questions:**   
1. Space between computers - what are the requirements (same as paper and pencil) and will our labs and library's be acceptable?   
  
2. Will the tests overlap grade levels requiring additional computers? (like paper and pencil)   
  
3. Will the test auto save, allowing a student with failed computer to resume test where they left off? How will this ben handled? This is an answer needed in the event that there is a network issue or a hardware failure - which will happen somewhere.....inevitably.   
  
4. Will head phones and microphones be needed for the test? All tests? or just for those that need it for testing accomodations?   
  
5. How can you use iPads if they require bluetooth being disabled? **Other discussion points/concerns being expressed.**   
1. Will we need to wire gyms for testing centers as well as purchase tables, power strips, etc.   
2. What kind of lead time is needed to setup gyms and testing locations.   
3. How will we accommodate the separate location for special needs students.   
4. We will store surplused computers to use in this testing environment. Hopefully they are in spec when the tests occur.   
 **ANSWER**: Thank you for these thoughtful and detailed questions. I am beginning to compile these into a master document that we will begin to address a Q&A around, as the A's become known to us. Most of these questions are decision points that need to be made at the PARCC level and also at the NYSED level. Some will show up n PARCC's version 3 guidance to be released later this year. The minimum/recommended tech specs are fairly clear, so surplus computers meeting them should be fine.  
  
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